61 w Ch

215 S. 5th

#
11

An ESSAY ON Fevers.

By Pafed March 15th. 1825

Charles G. Harding of Penna.

No 215 South Fifth Street, Philad.

The numerous diseases, which are entailed upon mankind by an Omnipotent and Supreme Being have led to the cultivation of the science of Medicine, or in other words, have induced men, by their mental and physical powers, to investigate their causes, and by appropriate remedies, to stop the progress of morbid associations, and re-establish healthy action, thereby overcoming the disease. The laborious exertions of the first cultivators of Medicine, are too well known to need comment: without a guide to conduct them through the intricate and labyrinthian folds of diseases, and remedial resources, it must be supposed that they met with numerous difficulties and embarassments, in pursuing their medical enquiries: But the enthusiasm, with which they pursued their studies, enabled them in a short time to overcome, in a measure, those difficulties which surrounded them, and to establish at length a systematic arrangement, which (though rude and incorrect) assisted them in progressing with more facility and correctness in their medi:

:cal

medical researches. Instead, therefore, of their Successors condemning them for the inculcation of incorrect principles in their systems, they should rather bestow the highest encomiums upon their illustrious names for the indefatigable exertions in developing one of the most noble sciences of which the world can boast; especially as it was from the very writings of those whom they condemn, that the more modern cultivators of medicine received some of their wisest precepts. Few men can be found in the present age, possessed of that strong intellect and expanded mind, which shone so bright in the characters of the first Champions of Medicine; yet it must be acknowledged that there are attached to the profession men, who though not possessed of that superior genius which distinguished their predecessors, have undoubtedly rivaled them in correct discrimination of diseases, and the remedial resources for their removal. That the science of Medicine has rapidly

progressed in improvement, is very perceptible from examining the annals of it, from the commencement of the last Century down to the present time; it will be found that medicine was then in a wild and uncultivated state abounding with errors and false theories, and that in its present state, it presents to the Philosopher, a science replete with all those interesting and important facts, founded upon the correct reasoning and observation of those who have attempted its improvement. The preliminary remarks which I have indulged in, I trust will not be considered altogether irrelevant; I also hope that the observations I may be led to make on the subject which I have chosen for my Thesis, may be looked upon by the distinguished and experienced Professors of the University of Pennsylvania (to whom I must submit my feeble and inefficient essay) with a favourable eye.

The many authors that have at different times written on the subject of Fevers, prove that it is one which excites in no small degree the

attention of medical men, in the investigation of its causes, effects, morbid terminations, and treatment, and such have been the various theories adduced by different writers on this important subject, that it has been found difficult to collect any just and correct views respecting it; some contending that Fever consists in a morbid condition of the blood in the veins, others that it is the effect of Arterial derangement, and many declare that the contagious matter producing fever, is first received into the lungs, and by sympathy, affects the other parts; whilst the learned Dr. Cullen supposes that sedatives applied directly or indirectly to the nervous system, are the primary causes of Fever. And, again, those who have taken apparently a more correct view of the subject, have assigned the organ of the Stomach to be the principal seat of Idiopathic febrile affections.

That fever depends on morbific matter either in the venous, or arterial system, is, I think easily

refuted by the fact, that the Heart (the great seat of the circulatory system) would in every instance become diseased, and thence unable to perform its functions, consequently Death would be the inevitable lot of all those attacked with fever. If the cause of fever was located in the organs of respiration, would not the Lungs in every instance take on the inflammatory process in a more mild or violent degree according as the matter received into them was more or less virulent, producing frequently Phthisis Pulmonalis? most undoubtedly such would be the case. To agree with Cullen in supposing a sedative effect on the nerves, to produce febrile action, appears contrary to the laws of nature, as fever evidently depends on stimuli; it would therefore seem inconsistent with reason to presume that a sedative and stimulant should operate the same. That nervous irritation produces febrile action must be admitted, but irritation cannot be produced, I

think, by a sedative; reasoning from the treatment of Dr. Cullen as regards febrile affections, it might be supposed that he has rather mistaken the effect for the cause of fever; indeed his correct and minute discrimination of diseases, and their treatment generally, has been acknowledged by the most eminent Practitioners of the present day; it is therefore presumable, that the decreased arterial action which takes place in the forming stage of fevers, has the effect of diminishing nervous sensibility, and irritability, giving rise to the supposition by Cullen of a sedative applied to the nerves.

Yet however severely Dr. Cullen may be dealt with in reference to his theory of fevers, his writings cannot be too highly estimated, for the perspicuous manner in which he has classified diseases; arranging them in that plain and at the same time correct order, which so many of his co-temporaries had failed to accomplish. The order of fever in Cullen's arrangement, is under three heads, Intermittent,

Remittent, and continued, a classification which is now most generally adopted by other systematic writers. All of these fevers may be produced by the same causes, but modified by particular circumstances. As Intermittent is frequently the prelude to the other forms, it will be necessary to make some observations relative to that form of disease. The description of a paroxysm of Intermittent by Dr. Cullen, is one of those master-pieces which few could accomplish even at the bedside of their patient; it presents a correct picture of the symptoms as they occur, divided into three stages, the cold, the hot, and sweating stage. This fever is divided into several varieties according to the length of the interval from one fit, to that of another; thus a paroxysm returning every 24 hours is termed a Quotidian, 48 hours a Tertian, and 72 hours a Quartan. Why these regular periods should be observed, must be referred to a law of Nature, as no satisfactory explanation has as yet, been given,

by those who have attempted to investigate the sub-
ject. This form of fever is in every instance usher-
ed in by a cold stage, or what in common language
is called a chill, which is preceded by a sense of las-
itude and debility; this debility which by Dr. Cullen
is refered to the nerves, is the effect of a decreased arte-
rial action, owing in all probability to a morbific mat-
ter lodged in the Stomach, and called into action
by some exciting cause; this morbid matter must act
as a stimulant, but its action is first on the stom-
ach, causing nausea, and frequently vomiting; as
the stomach posses a controling power over all
other functions of the body, making them in a great
measure subservient to all its movements, whether
in a healthy or unhealthy condition, it may be in-
fered, that the debility and lassitude which are the
preceding symptoms of a paroxysm of Intermit-
tent, are entirely owing to a diseased state of this
organ, producing in a greater or less degree a debili-
tated state of it, according to the degree of diseased

action in this viscous; this then perhaps has led to the opinion of a sedative effect on the nervous system: during this state of debility which pervades the whole system, a partial suspension of arterial action supervenes, in consequence of which the blood retires from the superficial and smaller vessels, into the deep seated, or larger trunks, giving rise to those congestions, which evidently take place in the cavity of the Thorax, the Liver, Spleen &c., which is known by the dispnoa, and pain in the right and left Hypochondriac regions, the whole surface of the body appears constricted, a sense of chillinefs in a short time comes on, first extending up the Spine; the extremities become cold, and at length a complete chill is formed. During this state of partial suspension of vital action, the stomach (afsisted no doubt by those means which are usually employed for producing warmth) regains in a measure its natural power, which enables it to react on this morbid

matter, and supercede it by its own action. As this contagious or morbific matter can no longer exert its influence on the Stomach, it next attacks the arterial system, and by its stimulating quality it excites them to re act on it with a greater or less degree of violence; this re action becomes general, giving rise to what is called the hot, or febile stage; during this stage a vomiting usually occurs, which for the most part is of a bilious nature, owing to the biliary ducts being stimulated to increased action, and throwing out a considerable quantity of bile; the arterial excitement is kept up for some time by the action of this morbific matter, but this matter having lost in a degree its virulence during its action on the stomach, is overcome in a short time by the increased action of the heart and arteries, which puts an end to the hot stage, and brings on the last, or sweating stage, which ends the fit or paroxysm, and the

patient remains well until the morbid matter produc-
ing the disease, is excited into action again, by an
additional activity to its virulence. Intermittent
fever frequently runs into the continued or bilious
inflammatory and vice versa, the latter assumes
the character of the former; this change may de-
pend on the following circumstances, the morbific
matter, which generates Intermittents, affecting the
atmosphere by which the patient is surrounded, (owing
to its increased accumulation either from the com
bination of heat and moisture which acts power-
fully on dead animal or vegetable matter, causing
them to emit noxious vapours, infecting the atmos-
phere of the neighbourhood in which such matter
may be located,) or it may be more copiously ema-
nated and conveyed throughout a district of Coun-
ty, by the direct rays of the Sun on stagnant wa-
ters, in either of the above cases the miasmatic con-
tagion which was at first of a mild and less mor-
bid aspect, becomes considerably augmented in

its virulence and activity, consequently those affected with Intermittents, by remaining exposed to its causes, and breathing the increased vitiated atmosphere, are almost certain to have an attack of bilious Remittent fever; on the contrary by a removal of the remote cause, or a change of situation, the patient leaving an unhealthy for a healthy situation, will either be restored to his pristine health, or continue without any additional augmentation of his disease: That Remittent, or Bilious fever may terminate in Intermittent none can doubt, but how this change takes place, but few have attempted to explain; all will acknowledge that this change may be effected by the removal to a purer atmosphere, but a much better explanation may be given, by supposing it to depend on the operation of medicine, the action of which changes the acrid and virulent character of the morbific matter rendering it more mild and lenient, and incapable of keeping up the continual arterial excitement,

at the same time possessing a sufficient degree of activity to exert considerable influence over the system at particular periods, in the form of an attack of Intermittent. Bilious inflammatory fever, and common fever and ague may be considered then as arising from and kept up by the same causes, namely, miasmatic contagion, arising from putrid animal and vegetable matter; or the emission from stagnant waters, but modified by those circumstances of which an explanation has been attempted in the preceding pages; this miasma, it is said, may be wafted a considerable distance 6, 8, or 10 miles, and even I think much farther if we may judge from the wide prevalence of Bilious and Intermittent Fevers throughout the State of Pennsylvania and New Jersey for the last three Years; — The exciting causes of fever are numerous; any which debilitates the stomach after an exposure to the remote or predisposing cause, enables the morbid matter to act on that organ; this effect may be produced by a sudden change

in the weather, from heat and dryness, to cold and humidity; from much bodily fatigue, exposure to night air, sudden transition from heat to cold, during the flow of perspiration, abstemious diet &c.; with these the various passions of the mind may act as an exciting cause of fever, either alone or alternating with some of the preceding. – Intermittents (especially if protracted) are more frequently the cause of visceral obstructions, than Remittents or Bilious inflammatory, though not so fatal in their terminations; the visceral derangements which occur in Intermittents, are no doubt owing to the congestions of blood which take place during the cold stage; whereas, in the inflammatory Bilious, the arterial excitement is constantly kept up, until by appropriate remedies the disease is arrested, or by its continuance the system becomes completely worn out, and the patient sinks at last into the arms of death, a prey to the destroying element. – The treatment

of Fevers is considerably diversified, particularly that of intermittent, almost every article of the materia medica has at different times, been employed for its removal, and the only one which has appeared to receive unanimous sanction of Physicians, as an antidote to this disease, is the Peruvian Bark; this medicine appears to possess a specific power or controul over this disease; but in what that specific action consists is entirely unknown, it would appear that it was exclusively appropriated to Intermittents, by the Divine Physician of both soul and body, as it will undoubtedly remove the complaint in every instance when administered in a genuine state. The opinion of Professor Chapman, that there is a medicine appropriated to every species of disease, to which the human race is subject, thus obtains another confirmation. The numerous list of Medicines, which have from time to time, been proposed for the cure of Intermittent Fever, would

be as useless to detail, as uninteresting to the practical Physician: Tonics, Stimulants, Antispasmodics, Astringents, Cathartics, Emetics, Diapharetics, and Narcotics, have all been used by different Practitioners, and of each class, every article probably has been prescribed with different degrees of success. Stimulants have been given during the cold stage, to excite arterial action, whilst diluents and diapharetics are employed in the hot stage, to reduce that action, and bring on in a shorter time, the last or sweating stage, and during the intermission the Bark, or other Tonics are freely given, without regarding the most valuable classes, namely Cathartics and Emetics; was there more attention paid to these two classes of Medicine in the early stages of Intermittent and Bilious continued Fevers, the disease would be arrested in its progress and a complete conquest gained over it; many have witnessed the happy effects of an Emetic judiciously administered previous to an expected

paroxysm of Intermittent, the morbid matter is either changed in its qualities by the medicine used, or entirely thrown from the stomach by the effort of Vomiting: That intermittent Fever cannot be cured by one Class of Medicines alone, is certain, but as every Practitioner has some favourite articles of the different classes peculiar to himself, it is difficult to determine which is the most efficacious. As the Stomach would appear the Organ primarily affected, and communicating with the intestinal canal, producing a diseased action there, the most judicious treatment seems to consist in directing the remedies to these parts; though at the same time the Physician if called in during a paroxysm should endeavour by the usual remedies, to moderate its violence: After the Fit has completely subsided, the Stomach may be cleansed by an Emetic of Tart: Antimony or Ipecacuana (the former to be preferred) promoting its operation by warm Chamomile tea, or warm water;

after the patient has somewhat recovered from the debility induced by vomiting, the fecal matter in the intestines (which is usually accumulated in considerable quantity, and is very offensive) may be removed by administering 10 or 12 grains of Calomel, carrying this off, with a Cathartic mixture composed of Senna, manna, and Sulphate of Magnesia; this mixture being properly prepared, 2 or 3 table spoonsfull may be given every 1, 2 or 3 hours until full evacuations take place, and the intestines are completely relieved of their morbid contents; this medicine is undoubtedly one of the best Cathartics for dislodging and carrying off the vitiated bile which accumulates in the intestinal tube, during inflammatory, febrile action. After the Stomach and intestines have been sufficiently evacuated, the Peruvian Bark may be resorted to, the superior efficacy of which has been attested, by the most eminent Practitioners both ancient and modern; it should be given in doses

of about ℥j every 2 or 3 hours during the intermission, and if this medicine is good, but a few days will be required to restore the patients health, paying proper attention, at the same time, to the state of the Stomach and bowels. — That this valuable article of the materia Medica has lost much of its reputation, is owing no doubt, to its shameful adulteration, which has now become so general, that scarcely a single pound of the genuine Bark, could be obtained perhaps in this Country; Practitioners consequently have been induced to resort to other medicines, as substitutes, such as the various Tonics, and astringent bitters of the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, given either separately or combined. The active principle of Peruvian Bark (Quinine) has been extracted by means of the Sulphuric Acid, forming the Sulphate of Quinine, which was extensively employed in Intermittents, during the prevalence of that desease the last season: the confidence which was reposed in this article by

medical men, led to the belief that it would prove a valuable addition to the list of remedial resources, not only in Intermittents, but in many other diseases, it was however doomed in a short time, to loose that unrivalled popularity, which it had gained; many Physicians began to doubt its efficacy, and some to declare it altogether inert; wheth er this loss of confidence in the Sulphate of Quinine was owing to its adulteration with other articles is not determined, certain it is that the medicine has proved to be far inferior to genuine Bark, given in substance.— In protracted cases of Intermittent, kept up by the force of habit frequently, Professor Chapman's practice is to give an Emetic every morning for some time, and keep the patient under the opiate influence during the day, increasing the dose a short time previous to the expected paroxysm; this acts, the Doctor says "by breaking up the chain of morbid association."

Where any Hepatic derangement, or obstruction

exists, in consequence of protracted Intermittents, & which is usually known by pain more or less acute, in the region of the liver, extending to the right shoulder, a sallow complexion, dull eyes &c: it will be impossible to cure the primary disease, until this is removed or overcome by the use of small doses of Calomel 1 or 2 grains given morning and evening, or one of the blue pills every day or two, not however to produce a ptyalism. The nitric Acid has also been much employed in those cases; this medicine appears to have an action on the system very similar to mercury; when these obstructions are removed, appropriate remedies will soon put an end to the primary affection. After what I have attempted upon the general treatment of Intermittent Fever, I beg leave (with great deference) to introduce to your notice an article of the materia medica, which I have used with complete success in this disease, namely, the Secale Cornutum, or Ergot; this medicine so valuable in Obstetrical practice (when in

the hands of a judicious Practitioner) has never been supposed to possess any controling power, over other diseases, than those pertaining to the uterine system; consequently none have attempted an investigation of its effects in other forms of disease; how I should have been the first to employ it in Intermittents, may be a subject of enquiry, but the peculiar circumstances which led me to its use it is necessary I should explain. A young man who had violated the chastity of Female innocence, by the base and unmanly act of seduction; became much alarmed in consequence of a Uterine Hemorrhage, which took place about two hours after coition; knowing that I was engaged at the time in the Study of medicine, and supposing he could repose confidence; he called on me for the purpose of ascertaining, what would be proper to restrain the flow of blood; not being willing to give any advice, owing to my inexperience, I requested him to see a Physician on the subject,

but to this he positively refused; finding persuasions vain, I at length reluctantly consented to see the person, whom I found in considerable alarm and anxiety, which was increased by an attack of intermittent Fever, contracted about a week previous to this time, the paroxysm of which came on regularly between 9 and 10 O'Clock in the evening, and it being then nearly 8 O'Clock; anxious to suppress the Hæmorrhage as soon as possible, I gave 15 grains of the powdered Ergot in syrup, using at the same time, cold local applications, with slightly astringent injections, composed of the acetate of lead; the Hæmorrhage not being very profuse, in a short time was checked; but fearing it might return, I left 15 grains more of the Ergot, with orders to take it if the discharge should again return; this powder was taken after I left the patient, I understood as a preventative; — I was much surprised to hear a few days after by the young man, that the female was

entirely cured (as he expressed it) of her Fever and Ague, not having had a single fit, since my medicine had been taken; after considering the case for some time, I resolved to try the effect of this singular article, on the son of a poor woman, a boy of about ten Years of Age, to whom I had given the Bark without success: this case had been running on for two weeks, observing the Tertian period, as the attack or paroxysm came on regularly about 12 O'Clock in the Morning, I administered 10 grains of the Ergot about 11 O'Clock which for a few minutes produced some sickness of the Stomach, the pulse at this time was 85 beats in a minute. When the sickness of the Stomach had subsided, I again examined the pulse (this being about 15 minutes after the Ergot was taken) when I found it 87 beats which continued, the paroxysm was completely suspended, and the boy recovered his health; the two following days, I gave ten grains of

the medicine to prevent a relapse, and afterwards a Tincture of Bark and Columbo as a Tonic.

After experimenting with the Ergot successfully in several cases, I ventured to mention it to my Preceptor, Dr. Humphrey, who requested my opinion respecting its modus operandi, this of course I was not able to give; desirous however to witness the effect of the medicine, he gave it to two of his patients then labouring under the disease; here also it proved successful. The form of Intermittents to which this medicine appears most applicable, is that of the Tertian character, though I have given it in every variety of the disease; the mode in which I generally employ it is, after proper evacuations, to give to an adult, twenty grains of the powder, about one hour previous to the paroxysm; combining with it, in some cases where the Stomach is irritable, 1/2 or one grain of Opium, with a small portion of powdered Ginger or Cinna-

(mon

cinnamon. This medicine like all others, will fail to cure the disease unless proper evacuations have been employed previous to its exhibition; I have usually continued the medicine for two or three days after the suspension of the paroxysms, to prevent a recurrence of the disease, and afterwards used the Bark or other Tonics until health was re-established. The medicinal properties, and modus operandi of this vegetable production, I must leave to the experienced Practitioners, who may be induced to employ it; certain it is, that Ergot is an Article which deserves a closer investigation, than it has yet received; indeed the cultivation of the Materia Medica generally is too little regarded, when it is recollected, that this branch of the science of medicine, is certainly one of the most important. It is wisely and correctly remarked by an eminent practitioner "that a knowledge of our remedies, is one half the cure."—

Having now concluded my remarks on the treatment of Intermittent Fever, I proceed to that of continued Bilious, the treatment of which requires considerable attention, not only as regards the first or forming stage, but during its latter or final termination. The symptoms of Bilious Fever are similar to an attack of intermittent, but much more violent, attended with a full hard pulse, determination to the head, vomiting of Bilious matter, hot dry skin, foul tongue, severe pain in the back &c.; this disease evidently proceeds from a morbid matter lodged in the stomach, which is called into action by some exciting cause; this miasmatic effluvia which is received into the stomach, is of such an acid nature, that it acts as a powerful stimulus to the whole system; the heart and arteries become highly excited, the biliary ducts are stimulated to increased action, causing them to throw out an unusual quantity of bile, which mixing

with the gastric liquor of the stomach, and its other contents, gives rise to that violent vomiting, which so frequently occurs in this disease; Bilious fever under these circumstances will always appear then as an inflammatory disease requiring the use of evacuating or depleting remedies. When called to a patient attacked with Bilious Fever, where the stomach is considerably effected, the tongue foul, without much determination to the head, an Emetic should be given of Tart: Antimony, and its operation promoted by the means already mentioned; after which a brisk Cathartic should be administered, the best of which is Calomel and Jalap, 12 grains of the former, to 15 or 20 of the latter, or 12 grains of Calomel may be given, and afterwards the Cathartic mixture, recommended in Intermittents; this must be continued until full evacuations take place, and repeated if required; during the operation of the medicine, the pulse

will be found to rise and become more full, which appears to have been oppressed by the overloaded stomach and intestines, here then the use of the lancet is indicated, from 16 to 20 Oz. of blood should now be taken, by which together with the other means employed, the disease will sometimes be completely arrested in its progress;- the lancet must be used previous to other means, when there is high arterial action, with great determination to the head, (which was particularly the case during the prevalence of this disease the last summer and autumn) besides the free use of the lancet, cups should be applied to the temples, and the head bathed with cold Vinegar and Water; pounded ice applied has been found efficacious, but in some cases would be dangerous; if these means do not give relief, the temporal artery may be opened with considerable advantage. When the arterial excitement is somewhat reduced, and the head relieved, or even before this is accomplished

a dose of Calomel should be given, after which a tablespoonful of the saline or neutral mixture every hour or two until several stools are procured, and the feculent matter is carried off. If the skin be hot and dry, the whole surface of the body may be sponged with vinegar and water: these means should be continued, alternating with each other, until arterial excitement is reduced, when another valuable class of Medicines namely diaphoretics should be employed, to unite a determination to the surface, and throw off the morbific matter which is generated during the disease; the best probably is the Tart: Antimony, either in conjunction with Calomel and nitre, or what is better with some of the neutral salts, as this produces a gentle diaphoresis, and at the same time carries off the offending matter from the intestines; Tart: Antimony however cannot always be taken, owing to the irritable State of the Stomach which

immediately rejects it; in such cases the effervescing draught may be used, or the saline julep with a small portion of Tincture Opium, with the occasional use of Calomel, as it is of great importance to evacuate the contents of the stomach and intestines which is constantly accumulating by the stimulus of the disease; diluent drinks should be freely taken to promote the action of diaphoretics in determining to the surface. – To check the inordinate vomiting, which sometimes occurs, various remedies have been employed, the best of which, I think is small and repeated doses of Calomel combined with the 1/4 or 1/8 grain of Opium, with a blister over the Epigastric region. As there is usually during the day more or less of a remission, it has been advised to employ the Bark; but as that would probably increase the arterial excitement or reaction and protract the case, it would be best to omit the use of it

(except in some particular cases) until the dis-
ease should be entirely subdued by other means,
and then recur to Bark in order to restore tone
to the system. During the latter stages of Bili-
ous fever, where considerable debility exists,
blisters will prove highly useful; applied to the
extremities, they quiet irritation and compose
to rest; - cases sometimes occur of this dis-
ease which will not yield to any of the prece-
ding remedies, like a ruthless invader, it
seizes with redoubled energy upon the frail
tenement of mortality, and unless seasona-
bly arrested, proves its dissolution: Mercury
in such cases pushed to a salivation, is of
immense utility, as by its own specific action
it completely suspends that of the disease.
When convalescence takes place, the utmost
caution will be required to prevent a relapse,
Tonic medicines with occasional purges
will then be necessary; the best of which, is

the Peruvian Bark, with Rhubarb Magnesia, Epsom Salts, Castor Oil, or Calomel. During the early stages of Bilious fever, the drink should be mild and acidulated, but in the advanced state, where considerable debility exists, Porter and Water, or weak wine and water may be allowed, provided no peculiar circumstances forbid their use; the diet should be light but nutritious, and easy of digestion, taken frequently in small quantities; strong animal food must be prohibited for some time after convalescence has commenced, – moderate exercise in the open air, the use of the bath &c: will also tend to re-establish health.

As regards Typhus or Nervous Fever much diversity of opinion exists; the form of this Fever which is termed Typhus Mitior, is brought on by the same causes which produce Intermittents, and continued Bilious, but, the disease assumes the Typhoid character in consequence of peculiar dispositions of the system; on the

contrary the Typhus Gravior is always produced by human contagion, the activity of which is sufficiently testified by the violence and morbid appearance of all contagious diseases. Typhus fever, like the preceding, have their primary seat or origin in the Stomach. The best treatment for their removal, appears then to consist in paying proper attention to the state of this organ and alimentary canal, and by stimulants and tonics, support the system during the cause of the disease: Blisters and Sinapisms in low Typhoid fevers, form a most valuable class of remedies; by their judicious and timely application, thousands have been rescued from the jaws of death, and from an untimely grave to which they were rapidly hastening.

As it is computed that nearly two thirds of mankind die by fevers, this disease must be a subject capable of exciting a deep interest in the minds of medical men, yet so little is the class of Fevers

attended to in this Country, that not a single systematic work has been written on the important subject: the inactive mind is content to dwell on and adopt the opinions of European, and other Authors on Febrile affections, without considering the different characters, disease may present, located in climates of a varied temperature: would some of the distinguished men that give lustre to the Profession of Medicine in the United States of America, commence an investigation of those Fevers, which have for a time, desolated some of the fairest portions of our happy country, it might be presumed that by the superior talents, which have been exhibited in their medical researches, these diseases would be divested, in a great measure, of that mortality which has been so great, as to have received the name from many of "Opprobria Medicorum". — What noble incentive, then, could the medical Man, desiring, than that which (though the

means of an Almighty power) would enable him to become instrumental in relieving his fellow beings of their sufferings, disrobing Death of its terrific aspect, and smoothing the pillow of affliction.

There are, doubtlessly, attached to the profession of Medical science in our own Country, men who by a little perseverance, might accomplish this desirable object, the performance of which, would affoid them many hours of pleasing reflections, as their fancy would picture, the benefit which had resulted from their exertions, in arresting the rapid march of those morbid and fall diseases, which were hurrying their victims to the awful precipice of Eternity, many, perhaps, unprepared for the change, or without a serious thought of futurity, until the icy hand of Death was stretched forth to seize his prey.